

9 May 1973

Dear Harold:

A couple of notes to go along with the enclosed, which again is restricted, in the interests of mercy, to stuff you might not have seen in the Post, plus a good Hoppe effort and another by McCabe.

Included the item about Rep. Don Clausen's newsletter bemoaning Watergate as probably typical of the grass roots GOP effort to survive. He represents the northwestern corner of the state, controlled by lumber and cattle barons..

As you no doubt are, we're trying to keep our heads above water, clipping and filing madly and in ~~many~~ cases not reading as we should to keep up with the finer points that are buried deep in the junk. Despite every effort to streamline, we fall farther behind all the time, and lament the fact that we don't have the time and manpower to work out a name index and chronology. This can always be done later, but now is when we need it to understand some of the real reasons some of the daily developments take place.

Returning the NY Review of Books article on Nixon, for which thanks. As you say, different approaches, and very good, much more concise and readable than Sundance.

Thanks too for the clipping on Ash's reorganization of the OEM, and for the background on Sam Cohn. We agree fully with your analysis of what is going on and the probable effect. When authoritarianism comes it will merely be programmed into the computer. Wonder how the flag will look wrapped around an IBM card, and whether it will work.

McCabe handles eloquently a prologue to all this, the reliance on the techniques of the marketing campaign. The next step is to understand that our basic trouble is that the ethics and morals of business have been massively applied to government, and that one of the difficulties of understanding this is the growing extent to which we are governed and communicated with in computer semantics only. Only within the smokescreen of such a blizzard of new terms and parameters could Ash and his crowd hope to push through their program.

Interesting that among the 10 or so resignations of administration wheels because of Watergate, not one has not carefully and explicitly exonerated GL of ~~his~~ prior knowledge, except that Dean hints it may be otherwise. He's been more defiant, as far as we know, and therefore more driven to extremes than the others. Hunt still is the heavy, we think, probably glad enough to keep his powder dry behind the myth the media have bought that Liddy, not he, was the boss of the operation. He'll have plenty more to say in due time, no doubt. A con who has the gall to send his lawyer to the White House with a message that he can't be put away for too long is not likely to fold up very soon.

We're beginning to see references now to something that has concerned us for some time -- the effect of Watergate abroad. The big danger is that it may tempt some of Russia's friends, like the Arabs, to trying something they might not otherwise. The response from this end could be foolish, if not resorted to as a welcome distraction from domestic embarrassment, and things could get very serious. It wouldn't be the first time.

Best from us both, our tired best if you must know.